

Station 31 Medical Screening Advisory Panel

Meeting Notes – August 31, 2004

Present: Edsonya Charles, Charissa Fotinos, John Gablehouse, Dennis Karl, Joel Kaufman, Matthew Keifer, Rayburn Lewis (by phone), Maggie McDonald

Absent: Greg Kipp, Dan Nelson

Guests: Nguyet Tran, Juliet VanEenwyk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
1. Update	<p>Maggie McDonald gave an update of activities since the last meeting in early January.</p> <p><u>Medical Screening Advisory Panel</u></p> <p>At the last meeting, the medical panel recommended that blood lead level tests be offered as an option to firefighters to allay any potential concerns related to the industrial hygiene analysis of Station 31. Summaries of the testing results were sent to the medical panel via two memos in mid-July. Maggie reported the range of results for the entire tested population; this is confidential information and not reported in these notes.</p> <p>Also, in accordance with state and federal confidentiality laws, Public Health asked permission of the individuals tested to publicly release their test result in aggregate form. Those willing to release their result signed an authorization form for use and disclosure of protected health information. The results ranged from 0-5 micrograms of lead/deciliter of blood ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$). This public information is posted on the Station 31 website.</p> <p>Maggie stated that there were no concerns expressed by panel members when these results were first</p>	

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	<p>shared in memo form. The panel concurred with this assessment at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Epidemiological Study Advisory Panel</u> The PIR analysis has been completed. Nguyet Tran and Juliet VanEenwyk from the Washington State Department of Health are present to share the findings.</p> <p><u>Industrial Hygiene Analysis</u> Dennis Karl reported that the firefighters are awaiting the results of the follow-up industrial hygiene testing of Station 31 by Prezant Associates.</p> <p>Edsonya Charles reported that the summer testing is complete and results will be shared in full at the next Station 31 Task Force meeting. Levels of VOCs and other tested substances did not change appreciably from winter levels.</p>	<p>Prezant Associates will present findings from the summer testing of Station 31 at the next Station 31 Task Force meeting.</p>
<p>2. PIR Analysis and Discussion/ Feedback</p>	<p>Nguyet Tran shared the results of the PIR analysis. Nguyet conducted the analysis with assistance from Juliet VanEenwyk and Eric Ossiander from the Washington State Department of Health. The medical panel reviewed and discussed the results. Several options for follow-up analyses were discussed and eliminated, including conducting a PIR for the firefighters who worked less than 180 hours. Juliet VanEenwyk stated that given that this is such a short time frame and that there is no evidence of a massive sentinel exposure in the building (eg, a Chernobyl type incident), an additional PIR on this population would not provide any additional information. It was decided that no further analysis is required.</p> <p>The medical panel agreed with the conclusion of the PIR analysis, ie, that there are certain risks associated with firefighting and that working at Station 31 doesn't introduce any extraordinary risks. Dennis Karl stated</p>	

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	<p>that he didn't see anything alarming that would make him not want to work at Station 31. Matt Keifer stated that consistency of these findings (increased prostate cancer) with other studies is supportive of the conclusions drawn here.</p> <p>The medical panel agreed with the recommendations set forth in the presentation with the following notes to be added in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) With regard to prostate cancer: add information regarding current screening guidelines (2) With regard to melanoma of the skin: add information regarding the importance of protection from sun exposure for prevention and delete the reference to soot as a risk factor. <p>Maggie McDonald stated that along with the final report, the Epi Panel decided to put together a "Frequently Asked Questions" guide to provide answers to common questions and to help make the results understandable to the non-scientific community. Along with the Epi Panel, the medical panel members agreed to consult on the answers to the questions. In addition, prostate cancer screening guidelines will be added to the original screening information put out by the medical panel. The medical panel also agreed to distribute a letter with the communication to firefighters indicating their impressions of the study results.</p> <p>Maggie McDonald stated that the Epi Panel determined that no further study is required and that after the study report and other materials are finished, the Epi Panel will conclude its work. The Medical Panel agreed that they will be available to review and consult on the study report and communication materials via e-mail, etc. After that time, the Medical</p>	<p>Nguyet Tran and Juliet VanEenwyk will make the revisions to the draft final report as discussed. The draft final report will be circulated to the Epi Panel and Medical Panel for review and feedback by Friday, September 3rd.</p> <p>Maggie McDonald will work with Medical Panel members on communication materials related to the PIR study.</p>

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3. External Sealing of Station 31	<p>Panel will also conclude its work.</p> <p>Edsonya Charles distributed a letter from Prezant Associates regarding the application of a water-proofing sealant on the exterior masonry walls of Station 31. The letter states that windows and doors should be closed during application. Also, as an “administrative control measure,” the letter recommends the occupancy of the station be as low as possible during application of the ethanol-based sealant. Edsonya stated that the application period will likely be 3-4 days, and as these recommendations may be difficult to achieve, she was bringing the issue forward to the medical panel for their advice.</p> <p>The medical panel stated that applying an ethanol-based product seems low risk. Their advice was to talk to the applicators of the product about their regular safety measures. During hot weather, windows could also be opened as workers finish one area and circulate to other parts of the building. John Gablehouse stated that a plan could be worked out to minimize exposure.</p>	<p>Edsonya Charles will pass along the comments of the Medical Panel to Seattle Fire Department officials.</p>
4. Next Steps	<p>The Station 31 Task Force will meet on Tuesday, September 7th to review the study report and panels’ recommendations. A communication plan will be developed at that time.</p>	<p>Maggie will work with the Medical Panel on communication materials as discussed above.</p>